

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TU, CY, GR

SUBJECT: ALLEGED TURKISH PROVOCATIONS OVER GREEK ISLANDS

REF: A) ATHENS 2606 (NOTAL); B) ATHENS 2603 (NOTAL)

1. A CHECK OF THE MAP OF THE IMMEDIATE TURKISH COASTLINE BRINGS HOME WHY TURKISH SENSITIVITY OVER GREEK ACTIVITIES ON THE ISLANDS MENTIONED IN REFTELS IS SO GREAT. ALL THREE OF THESE ISLANDS ARE PRACTICALLY TOUCHING THE TURKISH MAINLAND. USING MASSACHUSETTS GEOGRAPHY AS AN ANALOGY, CITIZENS THERE WOULD CONFIDENTIAL

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BE UNDERSTANDABLY INTERESTED IN WHAT WAS TAKING PLCE MILITARILY

ON MARTH'S VINEYARD AND NANTUCKET IF THESE TWO ISLANDS WERE IN HOSTILE HANDS (ALL THREE OF THE GREEK ISLANDS IN QUESTION ARE, I BELIEVE, CLOSER TO THE MAINLAND THAN NANTUCKET).

2. UNFORTUNATELY, THE TURKS ARE CONVINCED, RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY, THAT THE GREEKS ARE INCREASING THEIR MILITARY BUILDUP IN THESE LOCATIONS. THE TURKS CONSIDER THIS A PROVOCATIVE ACT ON THE PART OF THE GREEKS AND THERE IS NO WAY THAT THE TURKS CAN BE DISSUADED FROM KEEPING A CLOSE CHECK ON THIS ALLEGED BUILDUP. WHAT WE BELIEVE SHOULD BE POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, IS TO HAVE THE VIGILANCE CARRIED OUT IN A LESS PROVOCATIVE MANNER (I.E., BECAUSE OF THE CLOSENESS OF THE ISLANDS, THE TURKS SHOULD BE ABLE TO CONDUCT REASONABLY SATISFACTORY AERIAL SURVEILLANCE WHILE STAYING IN THEIR OWN AIR SPACE).

3. IF WE WERE TO MAKE A DEMARCHE TO THIS EFFECT, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF WE COULD TELL THE GOT THAT WE WERE ALSO ASKING THE GOG TO REFRAIN FROM FURTHER ACTIONS ON THESE ISLANDS WHICH THE TURKS COULD REASONABLY REGARD AS PROVOCATIVE. FONMIN-DESIGNATE CAGLAYANGIL WILL BE BACK FROM THE RCD MINISTERIAL MEETING (TURKEY-IRAN-PAKISTAN) THIS WEEKEND AND I WILL BE SEEKING AN APPOINTMENT SOON AFTER THAT. I COULD IF SO INSTRUCTED, RAISE THIS SUBJECT, IN ADDITION TO THE OTHER TOPICS I WILL BE COVERING, IN THAT MEETING.

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